

INFO FOR NEW DOG ADOPTERS - -PARVOVIRUS-



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT CANINE PARVOVIRUS

Congratulations on your new dog! The shelter staff has worked very hard to ensure the health of your dog but with so few animals vaccinated in our community, the chance for spreading disease amongst our pets is increased—especially in shelters where large numbers of animals are housed. Canine Parvovirus, or Parvo as it's more commonly known, is sometimes found in dogs adopted from shelters. Parvo is a very serious and contagious disease so please familiarize yourself with the following information.



Did you know?...

- Parvo is **HIGHLY** contagious and potentially fatal to “at risk” dogs --puppies under ten months old and dogs that have not been vaccinated are most at risk.
- Parvo generally affects the dog's intestinal tract and in rare cases, the heart. *Symptoms of Parvo can include bloody diarrhea, depression, fever, eventual dehydration, loss of appetite and lethargy.*
- Parvovirus is transmitted through the feces and vomit of infected dogs. Parvo is **VERY** hardy and can live on some surfaces for many months. It can easily be spread from dog to dog via “carriers” called fomites like the hands, shoes or clothing of anyone who comes into contact with the virus.
- Like many pet illnesses, Parvovirus can have a lengthy incubation period and animals may be harboring the disease. This means the pet may have contracted the disease and appear perfectly healthy until the symptoms suddenly appear.

When should you seek treatment?



- You should always take your new dog to a veterinarian within 2 days of adoption, for a routine health check. However, if any of your dogs develop bloody diarrhea, fever, lethargy or loss of appetite, you should make an appointment with a veterinarian immediately.

Can Canine Parvovirus be prevented?

YES! Regular vaccinations are **KEY** to prevention and puppies especially need to see a veterinarian to protect them from this serious and potentially deadly disease. *Remember, there is NO cure for Canine Parvovirus. Your dog MUST be vaccinated against Parvo to prevent them from getting this deadly disease.* Regular vaccinations are the best way to ensure your dog leads a happy, healthy life. Call Animal Care Services at 207-4PET for info on low cost vaccination resources.



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